

# Company tries to speed up quarry approval process

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Hanson Brick's attempt to speed up the approval process at the Region for its proposed new Burlington shale quarry proved unsuccessful at a public meeting last week.

The session, held at the Halton Regional Centre by the planning and public works committee, gave residents another chance to comment on the quarry that could be located on a 95-acre piece of land on the south side of No. 1 Sideroad, west of Tremaine Road, bordering Milton and Oakville.

But Ronald Webb, a lawyer representing Hanson Brick, also used the meeting as an opportunity to suggest what the committee should recommend to regional council regarding the proposed quarry.

He asked that staff be directed to present its recommendation report to the committee April 12 and that the report include an Official Plan amendment in the form to be adopted by council. That's something staff has already indicated it intends to do.

He also requested that Hanson Brick be

permitted to develop a private communal water system to service the lots and properties surrounding the proposed quarry.

"It is extremely important and urgent that you grant our request," he said, noting Hanson Brick is expected to run out of the type of shale required to manufacture 'buff' clay brick this summer or fall. "If that should happen, it would be very detrimental to the operation of Hanson in the Burlington area."

The solicitor's suggestion didn't go over well with Burlington Councillor John Taylor, who noted he was concerned about the public process being corrupted.

Public meetings are designed to collect information from the public and aren't used by committees or councils to make decisions, he said.

"I don't want this committee or council to give any direction to staff that would corrupt their ability (to evaluate the proposal)," he said. "We need to have a clean public process."

Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline shared similar sentiments, dubbing the lawyer's request a "cute tactic."

"We have to keep the integrity of the public process," she said. "I don't even think we should be talking about this."

The committee heard from a few residents on the quarry proposal, including Roger Goulet, who represented Protecting Escarpment Rural Land (PERL).

He spoke about Hanson Brick's original proposal to construct a water line to service anyone affected by the new operation — a concept it will abandon altogether if the Region gives a communal water system the go-ahead. "The water line would set a dangerous precedent."

He added PERL would like the committee to reject the water line proposal and require alternative solutions to be investigated.

Regional staff has previously cited concerns about the impacts a water line could have on maintaining urban boundaries.

A staff report from Commissioner of Planning and Public Works Peter Crockett notes that staff are exploring all options for addressing well impacts and has requested that Hanson Brick evaluate the feasibility of constructing a private communal water sup-

ply system that could service affected residents.

The committee also heard from lawyer Peter Pickfield, who represented the eight families that comprise the Tremaine Neighbourhood Association — residents who live around the proposed quarry site.

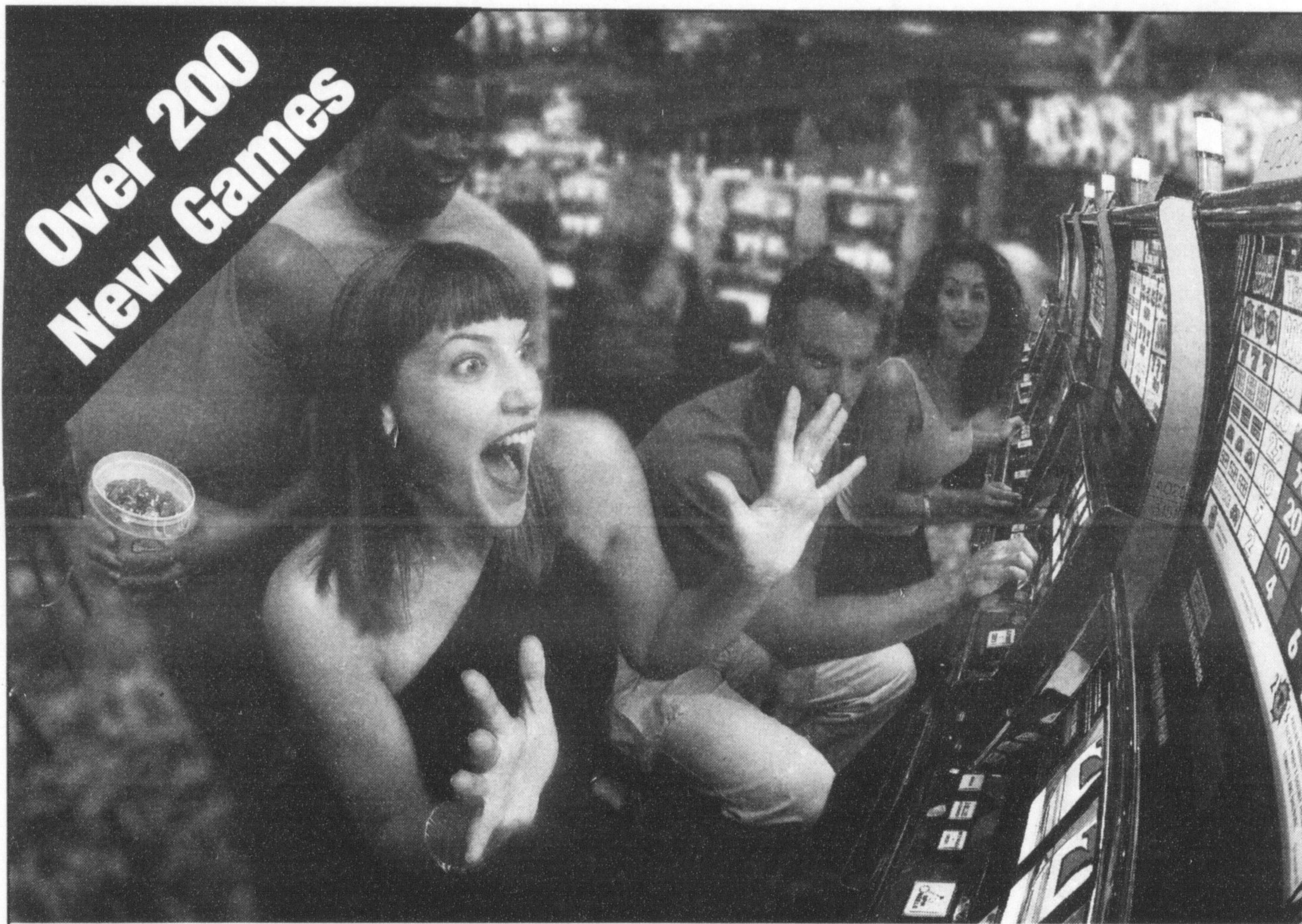
He said that the group has reached an agreement in principle to not proceed with its objections to the quarry on the condition that a permanent water supply is provided as soon as possible.

The City of Burlington has already adopted an Official Plan amendment necessary to permit the quarry and forwarded it to the Region for approval.

The Province will also have to decide if it wants to approve removing the lands from the Parkway Belt West Plan and the application for a licence to extract shale in order for the quarry to go ahead.

The proposed site would replace one of three operations in Burlington and provide 55 years of shale reserves.

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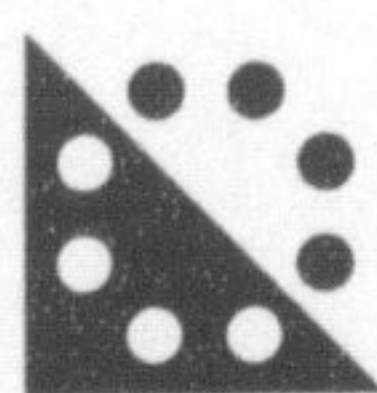
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